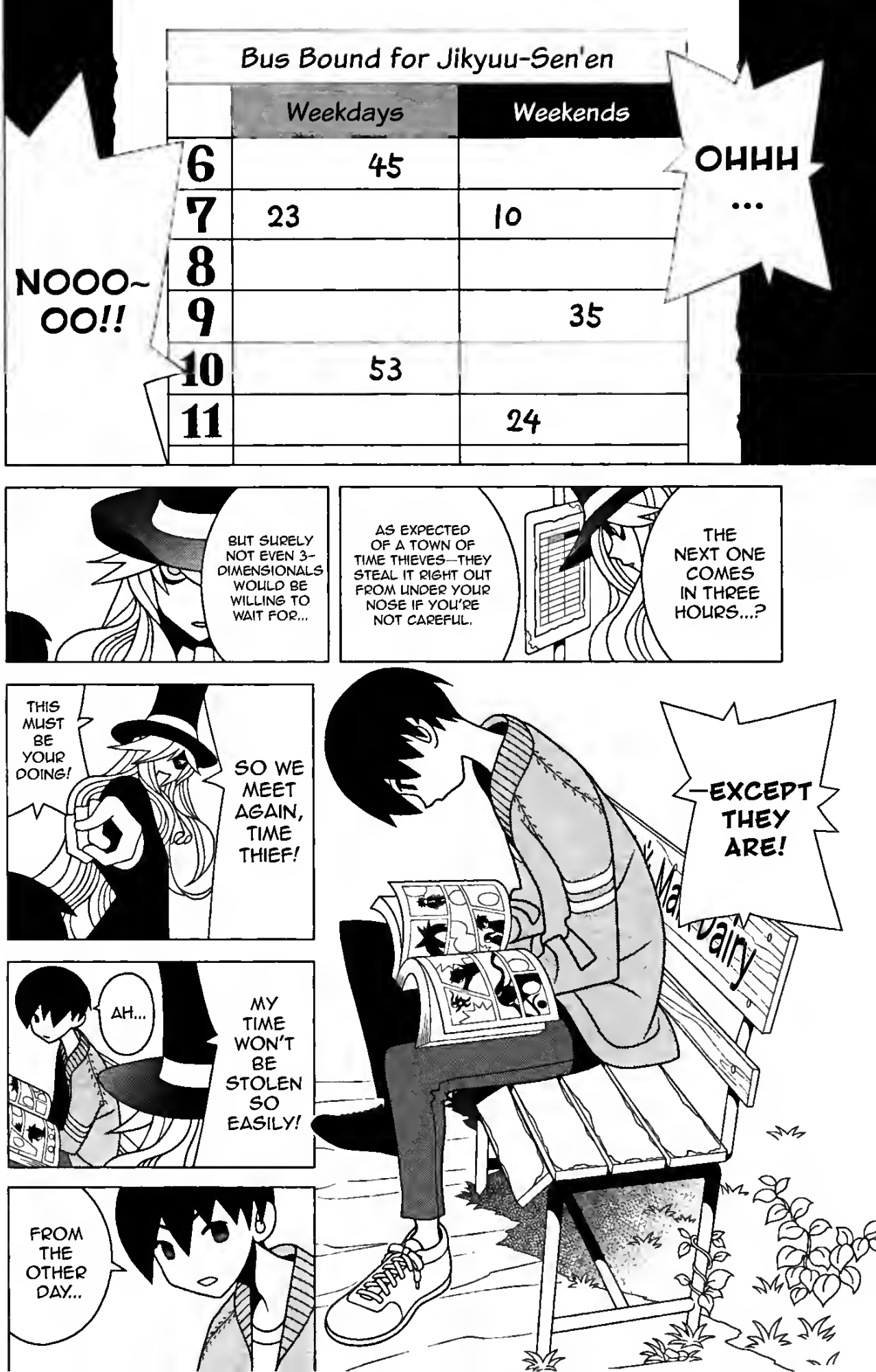
00'02" The Princess and the Time Celebrities

WE'RE ON OUR WAY...
TO THE PROMISED PLACE.
TO SPACE, ON THAT ORBITAL ELEVATOR.

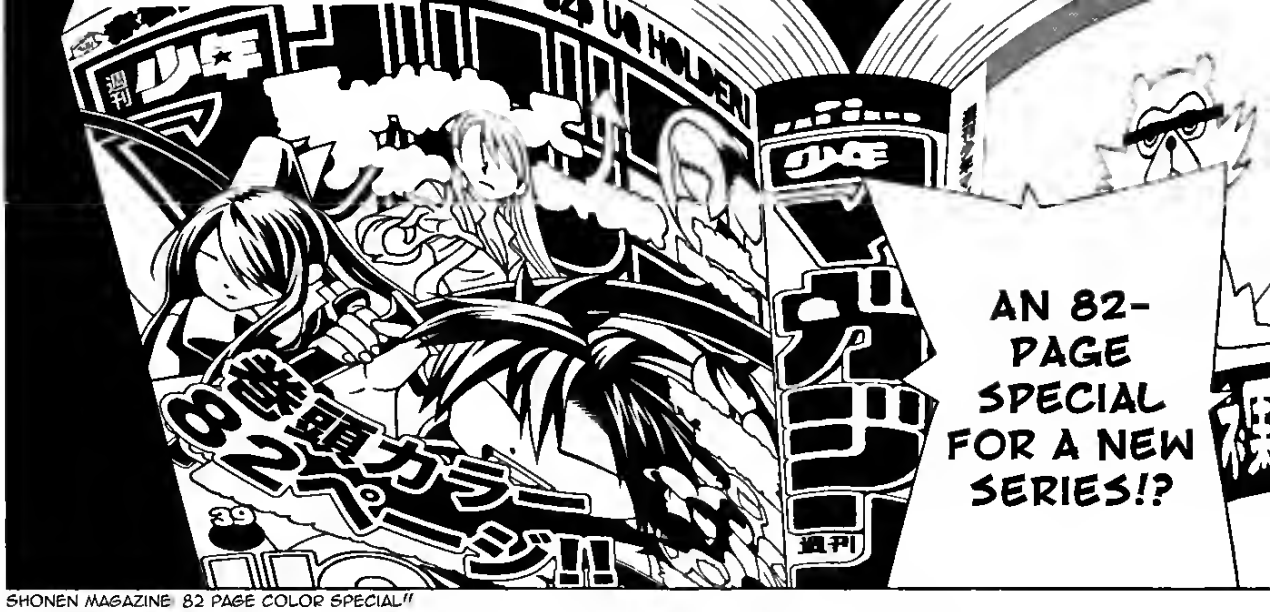
HM?
IT'S CLOSER THAN I THOUGHT.

OR-
BITAL
ELEVA-
TOR!!
THAT
ISN'T
AN...
THAT'S THE
THIRD PARTY OF
ADVENTURERS
TODAY.
THAT'S
MIS-
LEAD-
ING!
I WAS GETTING
A FEEL FOR
THE LAYOUT
OF THE TOWN.
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING UP
THERE?
すたっ

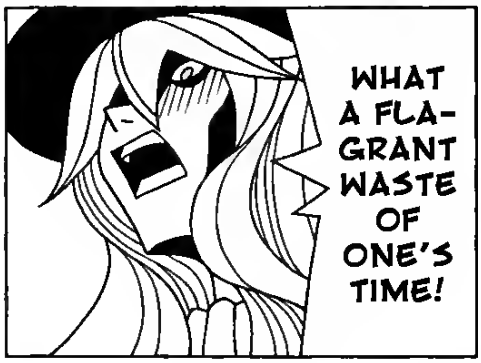
Panorama of Kuootsu City, Furan-ku, Miura
THIS IS A FAIRLY INTERESTING ERA, IS IT NOT?
IT JUST LEFT.
ブロロ
WE'LL RETURN ON THIS 3-DIMENSIONAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM!
WE HAVE TO HURRY BACK AND INTERCEPT THEM!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
A BALL!?
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING LETTERS.
WHY WOULD YOU NEED TO KNOW THE LAYOUT OF THE TOWN?
I'VE BEEN TASKED BY YOUR LADY SISTER WITH DISTRIBUTING THE INVITATIONS TO HER BALL.
UNFORTUNATELY, A NUMBER OF THEM HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT OUT.
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
Bus
Murasakino Oka
Boarding
LET'S WAIT FOR THE NEXT BUS.

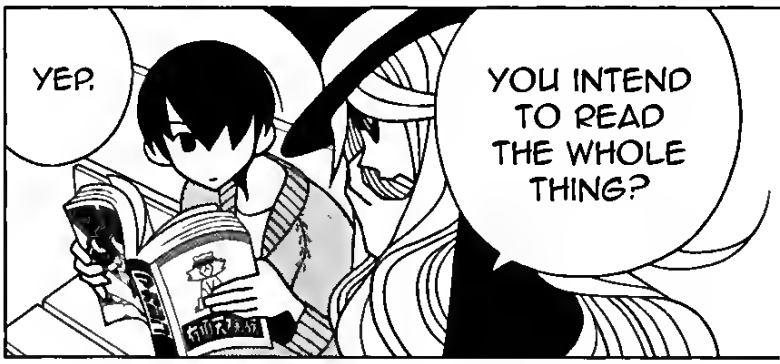

Bus Bound for Jikyuu-Sen'en
Weekdays
Weekends
6 45
7 23 10
8
9 35
10 53
11 24
NOOO~ OO!!
OHHH ...
BUT SURELY NOT EVEN 3-DIMENSIONALS WOULD BE WILLING TO WAIT FOR...
AS EXPECTED OF A TOWN OF TIME THIEVES—THEY STEAL IT RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER YOUR NOSE IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.
THE NEXT ONE COMES IN THREE HOURS...?
THIS MUST BE YOUR DOING!
SO WE MEET AGAIN, TIME THIEF!
—EXCEPT THEY ARE!
AH...
MY TIME WON'T BE STOLEN SO EASILY!
FROM THE OTHER DAY...

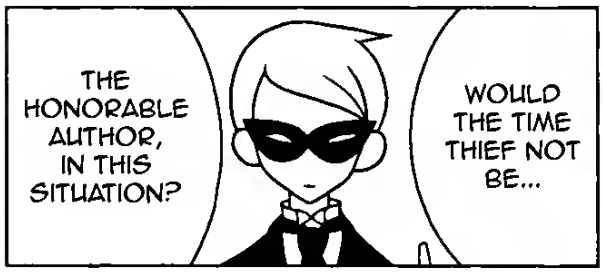
I'M NOT A BAKER!
THE BAKER.
HIS NAME IS THE COUNT OF ST. GERMAIN.
YOU WEREN'T LISTENING TO WHAT I SAID LAST TIME AT ALL, WERE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU BEING SO IMPATIENT FOR?
BUT IN REALITY, HE'S ONLY CAPABLE OF POPPING IN AND OUT OF EXISTENCE FOR SHORT LENGTHS OF TIME—ADDED TOGETHER, HIS LIFE SPAN IS ONLY ONE YEAR, MUCH SHORTER THAN OUR OWN.
BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE WOULD APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR IN MANY DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS, HE'S BEEN CALLED IMMORTAL OR UNNATURALLY LONG-LIVED...
WELL, LET'S JUST READ SOME MANGA OR SOMETHING AND WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE.
I'M ONLY HERE TO VISIT MY GRANDMA.
ISN'T THIS AN INCONVENIENT LOCATION? A MINOR ROAD WITH NOTHING BUT A HOSPITAL...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THANK YOU FOR APPEARING JUST TO EXPLAIN THINGS.

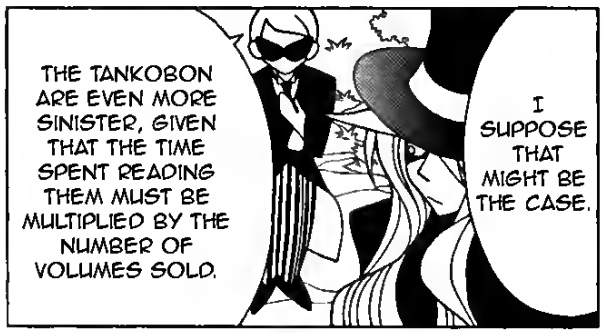


SHONEN MAGAZINE: 82 PAGE COLOR SPECIAL!!

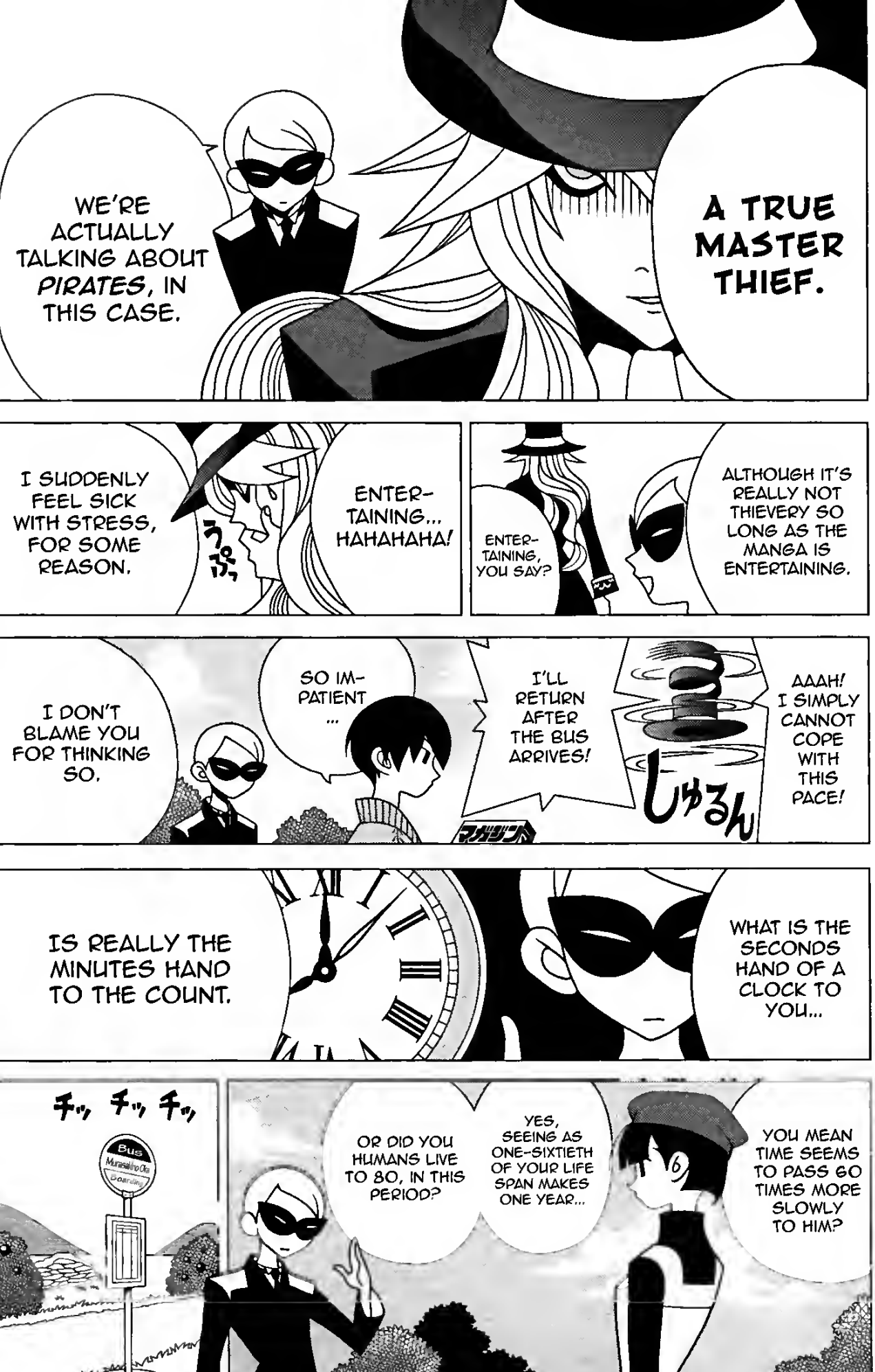


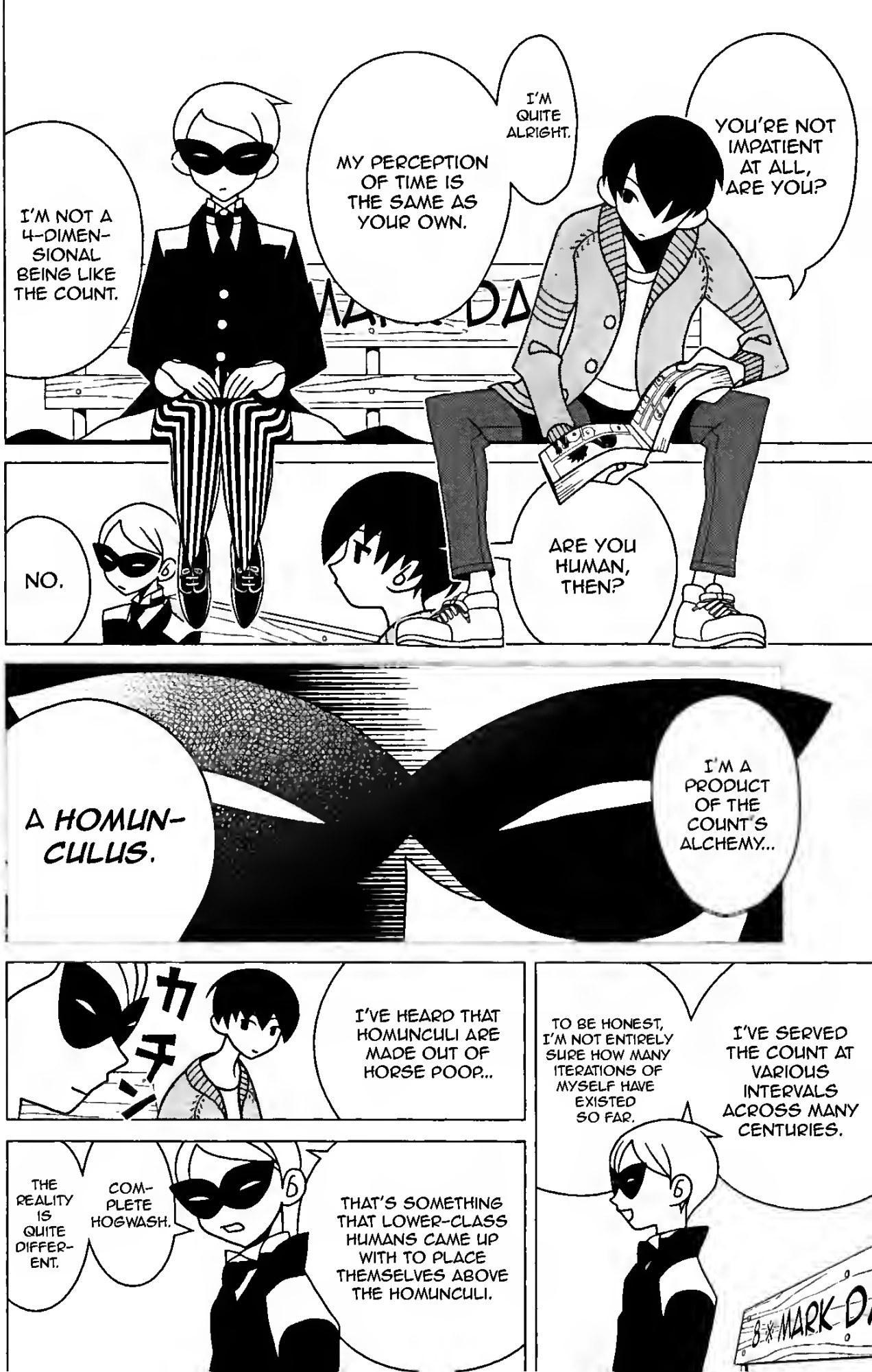





THE TANKOBON ARE EVEN MORE SINISTER, GIVEN THAT THE TIME SPENT READING THEM MUST BE MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES SOLD.
I SUPPOSE THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE.

LET'S SEE... THAT WOULD BE 300 MILLION COPIES, AND ASSUMING EACH TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES TO READ, THE AUTHOR WILL HAVE STOLEN ROUGHLY 17,000 YEARS FROM HIS READERS.
HOW MANY COPIES HAVE SOLD OF THE #1-SELLING MANGA?

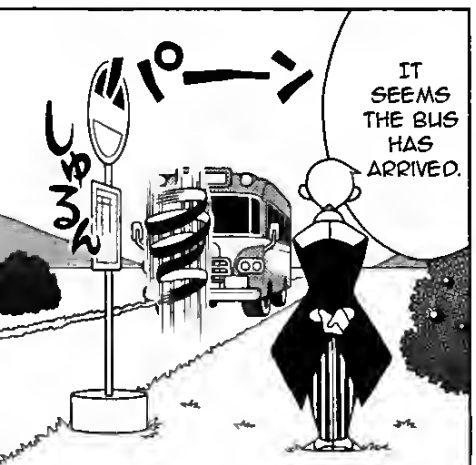

A TRUE MASTER THIEF.
WE'RE ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT *PIRATES*, IN THIS CASE.
ALTHOUGH IT'S REALLY NOT THIEVERY SO LONG AS THE MANGA IS ENTERTAINING.
ENTER-TAINING, YOU SAY?
ENTER-TAINING... HAHAHAHA!
うぷっ
I SUDDENLY FEEL SICK WITH STRESS, FOR SOME REASON.
AAAH! I SIMPLY CANNOT COPE WITH THIS PACE!
しゅるん
I'LL RETURN AFTER THE BUS ARRIVES!
SO IM-PATIENT ...
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR THINKING SO.
マガジン
WHAT IS THE SECONDS HAND OF A CLOCK TO YOU...
IS REALLY THE MINUTES HAND TO THE COUNT.
YOU MEAN TIME SEEMS TO PASS 60 TIMES MORE SLOWLY TO HIM?
YES, SEEING AS ONE-SIXTIETH OF YOUR LIFE SPAN MAKES ONE YEAR...
OR DID YOU HUMANS LIVE TO 80, IN THIS PERIOD?
チッ チッ チッ
Bus
Murasaki no Oka
Boarding

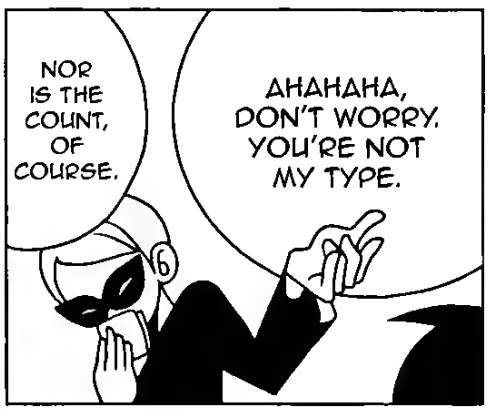

I'M NOT A 4-DIMENSIONAL BEING LIKE THE COUNT.
MY PERCEPTION OF TIME IS THE SAME AS YOUR OWN.
I'M QUITE ALRIGHT.
YOU'RE NOT IMPATIENT AT ALL, ARE YOU?
NO.
ARE YOU HUMAN, THEN?
A HOMUNCULUS.
I'M A PRODUCT OF THE COUNT'S ALCHEMY...
カチン
I'VE HEARD THAT HOMUNCULI ARE MADE OUT OF HORSE POOP...
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE HOW MANY ITERATIONS OF MYSELF HAVE EXISTED SO FAR.
I'VE SERVED THE COUNT AT VARIOUS INTERVALS ACROSS MANY CENTURIES.
THE REALITY IS QUITE DIFFERENT.
COMPLETE HOGWASH.
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT LOWER-CLASS HUMANS CAME UP WITH TO PLACE THEMSELVES ABOVE THE HOMUNCULI.

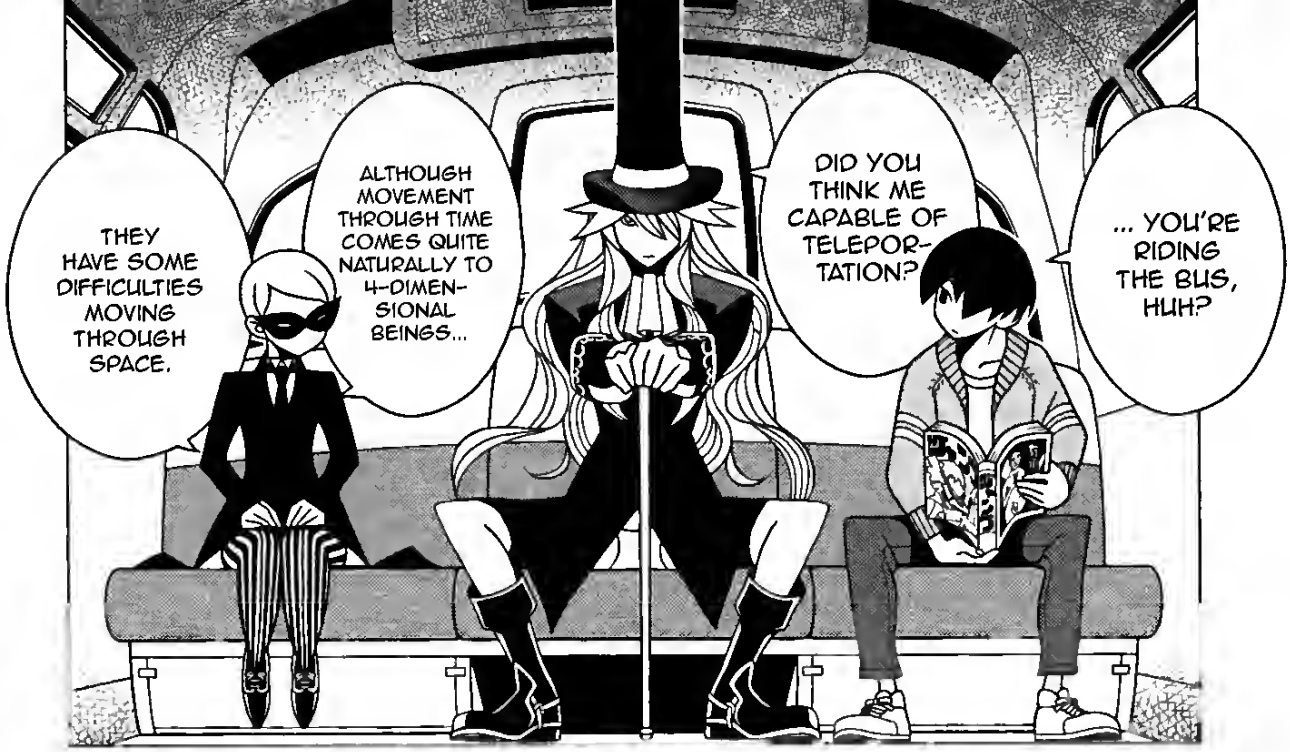
IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEM FROM REPRODUCING...
HOMUNCULI CAN ONLY BE ATTRACTED TO THOSE OF THEIR OWN SEX.
WHY DON'T I TEACH YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING?
ぐいっ

しゅぽん

ぶちゅうううう♥


パーン
しゅるる
IT SEEMS THE BUS HAS ARRIVED.


NOR IS THE COUNT, OF COURSE.
AHAHAHA, DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.

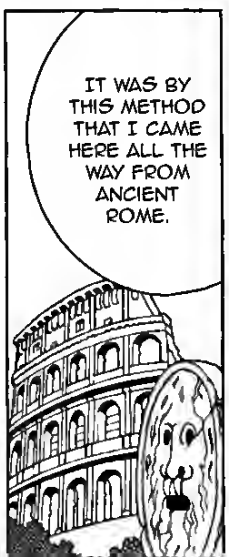

THEY HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES MOVING THROUGH SPACE.
ALTHOUGH MOVEMENT THROUGH TIME COMES QUITE NATURALLY TO 4-DIMENSIONAL BEINGS...
DID YOU THINK ME CAPABLE OF TELEPORTATION?
... YOU'RE RIDING THE BUS, HUH?

IN FRANCE, IT'S JUST A GREETING ...
ぶっぶっ
JUST A GREETING ...
SHOW A BIT OF INTEREST, WILL YOU!?

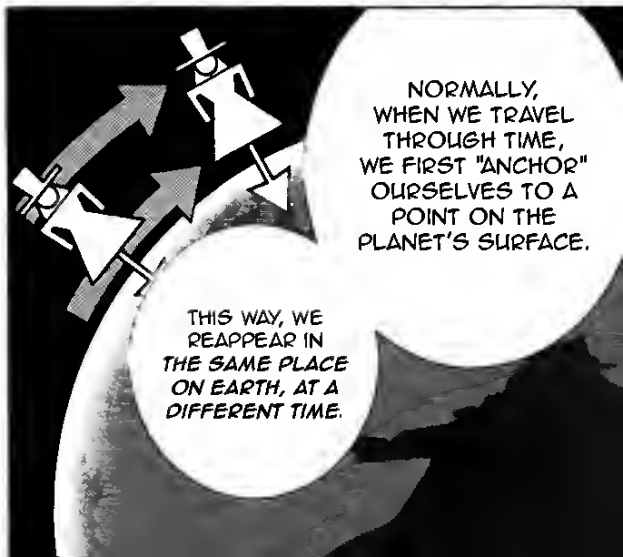
ARE YOU WONDERING HOW I MANAGED TO GET HERE ALL THE WAY FROM EUROPE?
NOT REALLY.

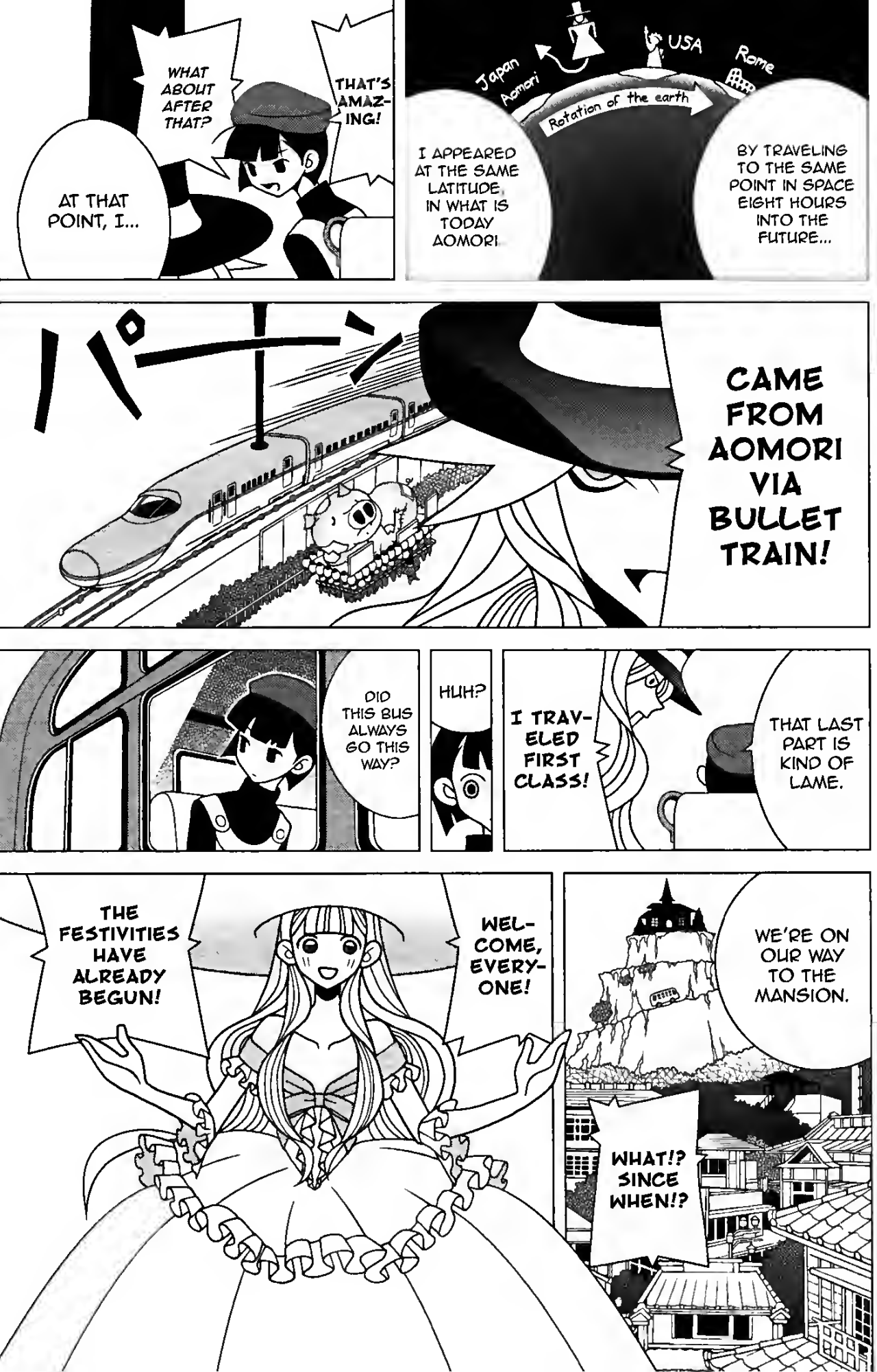
YOU'RE AWARE THE EARTH SPINS ON AN AXIS, YES?

THEN, IF YOU REALLY MUST KNOW ...


IT WAS BY THIS METHOD THAT I CAME HERE ALL THE WAY FROM ANCIENT ROME.

WE CAN *MOVE ALONG OUR CURRENT LINE OF LATITUDE* IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL TIME DIFFERENCE.
BUT CONVERSELY IF WE *DON'T* ANCHOR OURSELVES, AND INSTEAD ALLOW THE EARTH TO ROTATE UNDER OUR FEET...

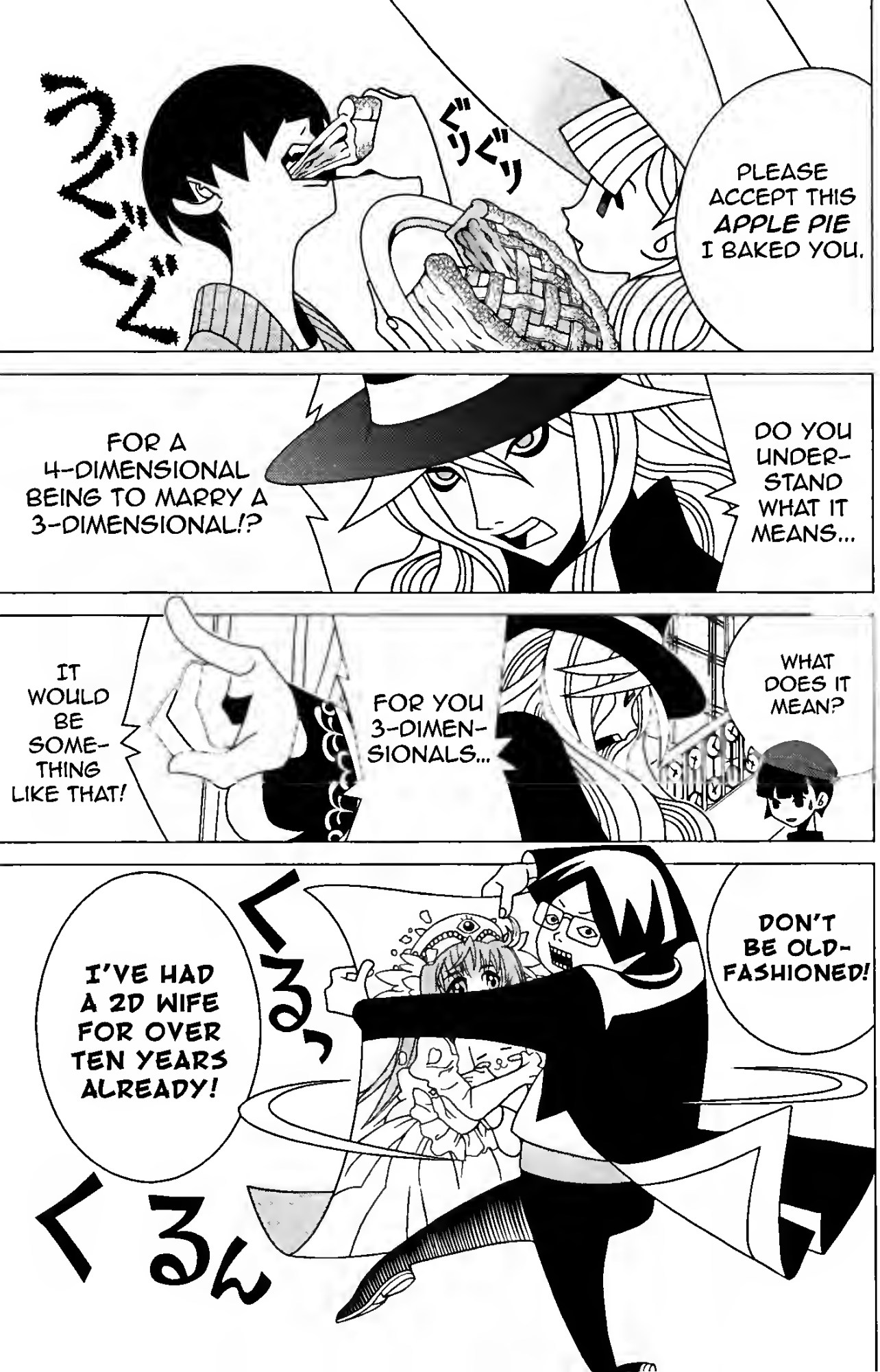

NORMALLY, WHEN WE TRAVEL THROUGH TIME, WE FIRST "ANCHOR" OURSELVES TO A POINT ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE.
THIS WAY, WE REAPPEAR IN *THE SAME PLACE ON EARTH, AT A DIFFERENT TIME.*


WHAT ABOUT AFTER THAT?
THAT'S AMAZ-ING!
AT THAT POINT, I...
Japan
Aomori
USA
Rome
Rotation of the earth
I APPEARED AT THE SAME LATITUDE, IN WHAT IS TODAY AOMORI.
BY TRAVELING TO THE SAME POINT IN SPACE EIGHT HOURS INTO THE FUTURE...
パーン
CAME FROM AOMORI VIA BULLET TRAIN!
DID THIS BUS ALWAYS GO THIS WAY?
HUH?
I TRAV-ELED FIRST CLASS!
THAT LAST PART IS KIND OF LAME.
THE FESTIVITIES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN!
WEL-COME, EVERY-ONE!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE MANSION.
WHAT!? SINCE WHEN!?

WE'RE THROWING A BALL, WITH A FINE COLLECTION OF TIME CELEBRITIES IN ATTENDANCE!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WHO SPEND THEIR TIME IN THE RICHEST, MOST EXTRAVAGANT MANNER.
TIME CELEBRITIES?
THAT GENTLEMAN IS A TIME CELEBRITY WILLING TO SPEND MANY TENS OF HOURS...
THAT ONE'S EVEN DANCING WITH A TELEPHONE POLE.
THEY REALLY DON'T LOOK LIKE CELEBRITIES, AT FIRST GLANCE...
STEP? HE'S HARDLY MOVING AT ALL...
MY! A TIME CELEBRITY DANCING SUCH AN EXQUISITE STEP...
THAT'S JUST A STALKER!
FOLLOWING AFTER A WOMAN WHO WILL NEVER RETURN HIS AFFECTIONS!
HE'S JUST STALLING THE PROCEEDINGS OUT OF PROTEST!
IT'S A DIET MEMBER WHO TAKES SEVERAL HOURS TO WALK TO THE BALLOT BOX, JUST TO CAST A BLANK VOTE!

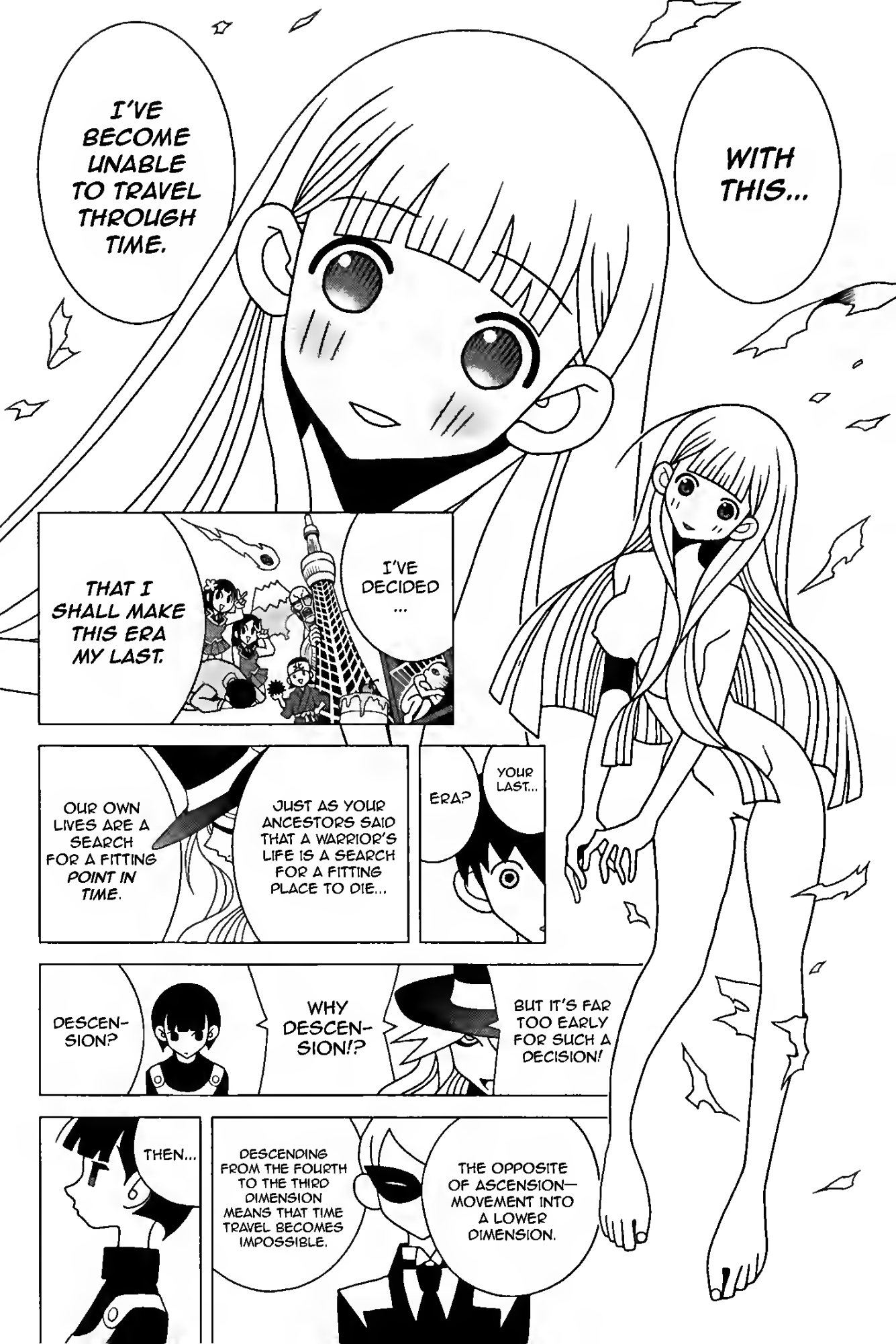
THIS IS A GUEST REGISTER OF ALL OUR HONORABLE ATTENDEES...
WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT HIS GRISLY FATE!
A TIME CELEBRITY PRESSING EVERY FLOOR IN AN ELEVATOR!
JUST TO GAMBLE THEIR MONEY AWAY!
TIME CELEBRITIES LINING UP EARLY IN THE MORNING...
• A salaryman who commutes two and a half hours to work every day
• Attendees of a conference to decide what the next conference will be about
• A talkshow host holding an hour-and-ten-minute-long press conference
• A school principal telling the story of the three trees even though no one's listening
• Your superior talking about the three "fukuro" you need for a wedding, even though no one's listening
• People who line up overnight in front of stores that sell apples
• Someone running for 24 hours straight, and the person following him to make sure he really runs the whole time
• A rapper who keeps going "Say! Ho!" over and over again between songs
• A musician who won't stop saying "Roger Wilco! Roger Wilco!"
• A sports commentator starting his coverage of an 8:00pm boxing match at 6.30
• Franchmen who have to somehow incorporate sarcasm into everything they say
• Americans who ask if you want to hear the "good news, or the bad news" first
EACH OF THEM A SPLENDID TIME CELEBRITY!
おお
IS NONE OTHER THAN TOKITADA SUGURU-SAMA!
AND TONIGHT'S GUEST OF HONOR...
BUT SUGURU-SAMA...
EACH OF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN GOALS...
WHICH YOU SPEND YOUR TIME SO EXTRAVAGANTLY TO PURSUE...

WITHOUT ANY GOAL AT ALL!!
SPENDS HIS TIME...
おおお
おおお
SUGURU-SAMA, THIS WAY.
しゅるっ
THAT WASN'T A COMPLI-MENT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
いぐぐっ
THAT SUGURU-SAMA AND I ARE TO BE MARRIED!
AND NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FORMALLY ANNOUNCE...
AND NOW FOR THE FIRST BITE. RATHER THAN A CAKE...
I... WON'T ALLOW IT!

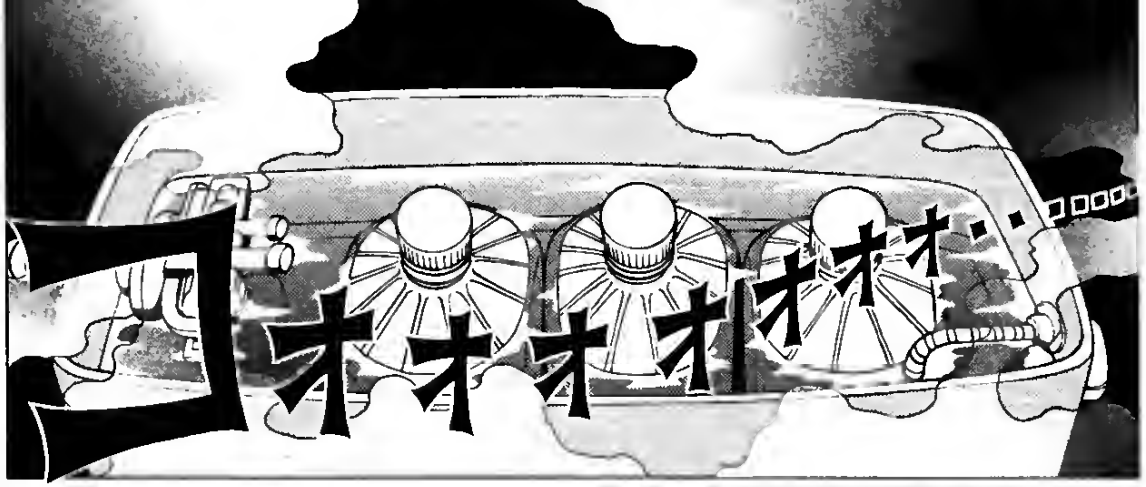

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS APPLE PIE I BAKED YOU.
ドリドリ
ムシャムシャ
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS...
FOR A 4-DIMENSIONAL BEING TO MARRY A 3-DIMENSIONAL!?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
FOR YOU 3-DIMENSIONALS...
IT WOULD BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
DON'T BE OLD-FASHIONED!
I'VE HAD A 2D WIFE FOR OVER TEN YEARS ALREADY!
しゅっ
くるん

THE POWER OF TRUE LOVE...
CAN OVERCOME DIMENSIONS.
AWESOME!
...AS IF!
DON'T TRY TO MAKE IT SOUND COOL!!
SO 4D-ON-3D LOVE IS THE SAME THING AS 3D-ON-2D LOVE, THEN?
I'LL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO WED A 3-DIMENSIONAL!
ONII-SAMA, MY HEART IS SET.
うううううう

じゅるるる


I'VE BECOME UNABLE TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME.
WITH THIS...
I'VE DECIDED ...
THAT I SHALL MAKE THIS ERA MY LAST.
YOUR LAST...
ERA?
JUST AS YOUR ANCESTORS SAID THAT A WARRIOR'S LIFE IS A SEARCH FOR A FITTING PLACE TO DIE...
OUR OWN LIVES ARE A SEARCH FOR A FITTING POINT IN TIME.
BUT IT'S FAR TOO EARLY FOR SUCH A DECISION!
WHY DESCEN-SION!?
DESCEN-SION?
THE OPPOSITE OF ASCENSION— MOVEMENT INTO A LOWER DIMENSION.
DESCENDING FROM THE FOURTH TO THE THIRD DIMENSION MEANS THAT TIME TRAVEL BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE.
THEN...

THAT GIRL...
IS GOING TO DIE ONE YEAR FROM NOW...
ヒョオオオ
HOW COULD THIS BE?
WHY DO YOU GRIEVE?
MY ORIGINAL TIME-SPAN HAS NOT CHANGED.
ざっ
WITHOUT TIME TRAVEL...
NO LIFE COULD EVER BE TRULY FULFILLING.
BUT, TO GIVE MY SISTER...
THE MOST SATISFYING LIFE POSSIBLE...
I shall...
Purge this town of all wastes of time.
ギィイイ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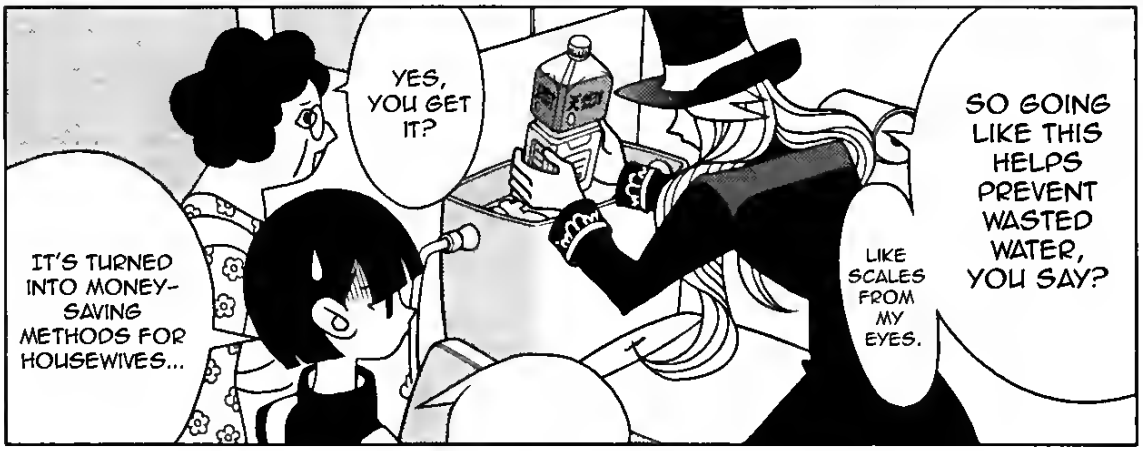
SO GOING LIKE THIS HELPS PREVENT WASTED WATER, YOU SAY?
LIKE SCALES FROM MY EYES.
YES, YOU GET IT?
IT'S TURNED INTO MONEY-SAVING METHODS FOR HOUSEWIVES...

BUT TO FRENCH KISS TWO NON-HUMAN BEINGS IN ONE DAY...
THERE ARE SOME UNUSUAL PEOPLE OUT THERE.
EXCEPT ONE OF THEM WAS YOU!

RIGHT?
EH?
どきっ
WHAT HAPPENS TWICE COULD HAPPEN A THIRD TIME, TOO.
3
WELL...
OF COURSE.
ぶちゅう
I'M HUMAN...
BUT...

THAT THE APEX OF EARTH'S HIERARCHY MIGHT NOT BE US HUMANS AT ALL...
Humanity
Animals
Plants
Protists
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT.
THERE MIGHT EXIST SOME-THING HIGHER THAN OUR-SELVES ...
THAT, PERHAPS ...

AND THEN, IT TURNED OUT TO BE THE TRUTH.

Translator's Notes

- Page 6 Banner: "Panorama of Kuootsu City, Furan-ku, Miura"
  "Kuootsu" is a Japanese rendering of the word "quartz." While "Furan-ku" literally means "Furan Ward," "Furanku Miura" is close to how the Japanese would pronounce the name of the Swiss watchmaker Franck Muller.
- Page 16 List:
  - "A talkshow host holding an hour-and-ten-minute-long press conference"
    A reference to the Japanese TV personality Mino Monta, and the press conference he held regarding his second son being arrested for theft.
  - "A school principal telling The Story of the Three Trees even though no one's listening"
    "The Story of the Three Trees" is an American folktale about three trees growing on a hill who become Jesus's manger, boat and cross.
  - "Your superior talking about the three 'fukuro' you need for a wedding, even though no one's listening"
    A long-winded Japanese joke about the the three "fukuro," meaning "sacks" or "bags," that you need for a wedding. The actual three vary, but they are often told as: an "ibukuro," meaning stomach, a "kyuuryou bukuro," meaning pay-check envelope, and a "kan'nin bukuro," meaning deep store of patience.
  - "A musician who won't stop saying 'Roger Wilco! Roger Wilco!'"
    A reference to Nagabuchi Tsuyoshi's song "Captain of the Ship." The song is unusually long, with the full version clocking in at about 12 minutes, and the phrase "you sorou," a Japanese naval term meaning "message received; will comply," features prominently in the chorus.